

Hazardous Materials Commission

Draft Minutes **Operations Committee**

May 8, 2015

Members and Alternates

Present: Rick Alcaraz, Fred Glueck, Ralph Sattler, Leslie Stewart, Peter Dragovich (alternate)

Absent: Henry Clark (represented by alternate), Don Tatzin,

Staff: Michael Kent

Members of the Public: None

- 1) **Call to order, announcements:** Commissioner Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Michael Kent announced:

- There was another crude oil rail spill and fire in Hemdal, North Dakota this week.
- The EPA has published an update on the clean-up activities at the United Heckathorn site in Richmond.
- DTSC is overseeing environmental cleanups at the Martinez Unified School District Maintenance Yard site at 921 Susana Street in Martinez, and East Stege Marsha and Electorforming, both in Richmond.
- Flyers are available for distribution for the two pipeline workshops the Commission is co-sponsoring on June 3rd and 6th.
- Dates are being secured for a meeting with Supervisor Piepho, and anyone interested in attending should let him know.

- 2) **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes for the April 10, 2015 meeting were moved by Commissioner Glueck, seconded by Commissioner Alcaraz and approved 4 – 0 with Commissioner Dragovich abstaining.

- 3) **Public Comments:** None

- 4) **Old Business:**

- a) **Develop follow-up questions for County Departments previously sent inquiries about implementation of the County's Environmental Justice Policy**

The committee did not consider this item due to time constraints and referred it to the June agenda.

5) New Business

a) **Develop recommendations concerning the development of local approaches to enhanced collection of home-generated unused pharmaceuticals, including consideration of local Law Enforcement collection and an Extended Producer Responsibility ordinance**

The committee discussed the background of issues leading up to consideration of an EPR-type bill similar to the one adopted in Alameda County. They acknowledged that the County is still in a holding pattern pending the decision by the Supreme Court whether or not to hear the appeal of the Alameda Ordinance, but they also acknowledge that the Commission had never formally taken a position on whether or not they supported the creation of an EPR-type ordinance in the County.

Commissioner Glueck said he would like to know if the County were to develop a system to grind up unused pharmaceuticals immediately upon collection, whether it would make a difference in terms of the way DEA regulated their collection. He thought that maybe if rendering the collected material unusable immediately upon collection would lessen the regulatory requirements imposed by DEA and therefore make collection and disposal less costly and complicated.

The committee then discussed the costs of collecting controlled substances by local law enforcement agencies as either a stop-gap measure until an ordinance was developed, or as a long-term collection strategy. Staff reported that he had consulted with Dave Wyatt at the Central Contra Costa Sanitation District who currently pays for the collection and disposal of uncontrolled used pharmaceuticals from collection bins placed at 12 law enforcement locations. Mr. Wyatt had also talked with the Sheriff Deputy in charge of disposing of the controlled substances the Sheriff currently collects as evidence.

Using this information, Mr. Wyatt had developed an estimate that this same amount of waste could be transported by law enforcement for disposal (a requirement for controlled substances) for about \$25,000 if all the law enforcement agencies in Central County combined their waste for disposal. This is assuming monthly disposal. The cost for individual law enforcement agencies to dispose of their waste individually would not go down significantly because the vast majority of the cost is labor to transport the material, as law enforcement can dispose of this material at no cost at a Central Valley incinerator, unless they reduced the number of trips made annually. Therefore, the major determinate in the overall cost of law enforcement setting up and running controlled substances collection programs would be whether they worked together to transport their material collectively or not.

Commissioner Sattler made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Glueck, to recommend that the Board of Supervisors should encourage local law enforcement to set up programs to collect dispose of unused controlled and uncontrolled pharmaceuticals from the public. The motion passed 5-0.

b) Consider recommendations to the Board of Supervisors concerning AB 45 and 1159.

The committee discussed the contents of these bills and Commissioner Dragovich made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors take a position against AB 45. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Glueck abstaining.

6) Reports from Commissioners on Matters of Commission Interest: Commissioner Sattler would like to consider options for doing something about plastic bags not covered by the bag recycling law.

7) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.